

What is the total number of Christian martyrs estimated to be during the second and third centuries (C.E.) up the Edict of Milan (Avoid non-academic sources like Wikipedia, Reddit and other opinion platforms.)

Key Points

- Scholarly estimates for Christian martyrs from the second and third centuries CE up to the Edict of Milan (313 CE) typically fall in the low thousands, with most historians placing the total between 3,000 and 10,000.
- Deaths were not constant but concentrated in short, intense periods, especially the Decian persecution (249–251 CE) and the early years of the Great Persecution under Diocletian (303–311 CE).
- Modern research suggests the scale was limited and often local, with many traditional stories of widespread martyrdom revised downward; controversy remains, as some earlier views assumed far higher numbers, while scholars like Candida Moss emphasise that systematic imperial persecution lasted fewer than ten years in total.

Overview of the Period

Christianity faced intermittent persecution throughout the Roman Empire, but large-scale executions were concentrated in the late third century CE. In the second century, incidents were usually triggered by local officials or mobs

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